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Spain in Worst Crisis Yet

Government Divided on Economic, Party Policy

By RAFAEL NADAL

LONDON (AP) —

THE refusal of Barcelona's 1,500,000 people to use public transport as a protest against an increase in fares, and the student revolt there, have brought home the gravity of the situation in Spain.

The situation of the whole country is such that unless drastic measures are taken, the situation will become even more serious.

Some of the causes of this plight were unavoidable, such as last spring's frost which destroyed half the nation's citrus crop, the present rise in the price of petrol which has been a constant factor in the economic situation, and the lack of a weekly 48-hour power cut in Catalonia with a possible extension to other parts of the country, thus threatening to paralyze the industrial life of the nation.

But the most important cause of the present situation is the cumulative effects of almost 20 years of inefficient and often corrupt administration, and the wasteful expenditure of money in unproductive work.

"Only in 1956" said Senor Arburua, "200 million pesetas (about £12,500,000) were devoted to public expenditure of this type. Although there has been an increase in the production of cement, iron, and steel, less than the increase in other European countries, without counting a considerable amount of borrowing, waiting for an increase in prices."

Alarming inflation. The result of all this is an alarming inflation. The price of wheat, which last year was 115 to 120 pesetas a quintal, is now 138. The allowance of ten per cent to 40 per cent in workers' wages has not kept pace with a rocketing increase in the cost of living.

And the recent decision allowing employers to dismiss workers wherever this has been necessary has increased social unrest.

The machine suggested by Senor Arburua, and more realistic and decent administration to attract foreign investments to Spain — has produced a serious cleavage within the Government.

Senor Arburua is strongly supported by Senor Francisco Franco, Minister-Secretary of the Party, Senor Rafael Calvo, Minister of Agriculture, and Senor Antonio Gil, Minister of Labour.

They argue that the building of a new and of Labour Universities should be considered unproductive expenditure, and that the increase in wages in a country where the average income per head is average the lowest in Europe cannot be accepted as the cause of the present inflation.

The economic situation, Kfar Bnei Zion, January 11.

however, is not the only division within the Spanish Government. Still more serious in many ways is the political division. Under the order of General Franco, Senor Arburua, since his appointment as Minister-Secretary of the Party last February, has been drafting a so-called "Fundamental Law of the Nation" designed to ensure the power of the Francoist movement in Spain. A bill proposed the establishment of a National Council of the Party with powers somewhat similar to those of the Russian "Presidium" entitled to veto any Bill presented to the Cortes, and which will put the Prime Minister and the Head of the State under direct control of the Council.

General Franco sent copies of these proposed laws already bitterly opposed by the Monarchists and the Catholic hierarchy, to all the Provincial Governors. All but three refused to comment on them, and those three openly declared that they would not accept them. So General Franco shelved the draft and Senor Arburua and all the other Francoist Ministers threatened resignation.

General Franco is thus facing an economic and political crisis far more serious than any he has had to face in the past. Over this gloomy background, the 500 tons of Spanish gold deposited in Russia during the civil war, the receipt for which is now in the hands of General Franco, has been held by Senor Negre, the last Republican Premier of Spain, who, before he died in exile last November, asked his son to hand the precious document back to his country's leader.

With this in his possession the Caudillo has not been slow to approach the Russian Government. Three Spanish Government officials have already been in Russia under the pretext of arranging the final details for the return of another 1,100 Spaniards sent to Russia at the time of the civil war as refugee children, bringing the total of those returned to 2,100.

In spite of his avowed anti-Communism, many observers believe now that General Franco is in an excited position to play the role of a Tito of the West, and that if the Spanish gold may prove too difficult to be extracted from Russia it may put him in a stronger position to obtain a needed dollar loan from America.

THE ground for the Philharmonic Orchestra and who brought good music to the public long before this enterprise was thought possible. My omission was only dictated by limitations of space (against which I have fought constantly).

I certainly remember Mr. Emil Hauser personally as he most probably saved my life by giving me a certificate amongst this "good number of promising young musicians from Europe," which Prof. Feigenbaum was kind enough to mention.

Yours, etc.

YOHAN BOEHM

Jerusalem, January 20.

ISRAELI COMPOSER

Editor, The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — In your Musical Diary of January 20, your correspondent takes pleasure with a radio station abroad for describing Robert Starer as an Israeli composer. Need further say that Starer "got some polite recognition."

Starer has for the last few years devoted his main efforts to the promotion of Israeli music in the U.S.A. and Canada, and has written important works on Biblical

and Israel themes. His music is published in Israel and rooted in this country. The composer was ready to give up his post at New York's leading music school and to return to Israel, but he was, however, during his recent stay here, unable to obtain a post.

With regard to the "polite recognition" we have received before us which speak of "Starer's forcible artistic imagination" and his "artful orchestration."

It is true, however, that Josef Tal's concert opera "Bail au En Dor" was the surprise of the evening (in the concert conducted over the Haifa NDR last month) and was praised as a work of mature individuality.

Yours, etc.

IRRAELI MUSIC PUBLICATIONS LTD.

Tel Aviv, January 20.

PEN FRIENDS

VICTOR STEINHAUS, of Kfar Kana, has received hundreds of requests from the U.S.A. and Canada asking both for exchange of stamps and information about their country. If any Israeli would like a list of names to choose from, he may write to Mr. Steinhaus.

AMIDAR WOMEN'S CULTURAL GROUP

KIRYAT YOTVEI

Jerusalem, January 17.

RUINED FILM

Editor, The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — I am glad that by your transmitting to me a copy of the letter of "Disappointed" (your issue of January 17), I have been afforded an additional opportunity to emphasize that the Cinematograph Censorship Board does not give the Film Censorship Board any authority to prevent "private" cutting of films by cinema owners or distributors.

In light of the numerous complaints on this subject, and through the initiative of the Censorship Board, the Ministry of Interior is now preparing an amendment to the law which would forbid such cutting without the approval of the Board.

On previous occasions I have already stated that pending the approval of such an amendment, a person who feels himself to have been defrauded by such cutting may sue the cinema owners under section 309 of the Criminal Code since the cutting can be construed as fraud within the meaning of this paragraph.

I can only express the Board's gratitude for the public which continues to deny its due. I join in "Disappointed's" well-justified disappointment.

Yours, etc.

E. HAYON

Film Censorship Board

Jerusalem, January 17.

MUSIC BEFORE I.P.O.

Editor, The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — May I reply to both Mr. Rosoloff's letters published by you on January 8 and 17, respectively, in connection with "I.P.O. Emotions on Next Twenty Years?"

I am well aware of the long list of pioneers who prepared

the women police constables, who are partly on special duty. The shortage of policemen in Amsterdam had lately amounted to ten per cent!

In contrast to the job of policeman, for which only unmarried women are accepted, that of postwoman is recommended particularly for married women who seek part-time employment. They need work only one shift a day, either morning or afternoon, and will be free for their own household duties of the day. In addition, they receive a very attractive uniform with a cape.

FARBAND HAVLIN HOUSE

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The first of a series of

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(former Minister to Burma, member of the Israel Delegation to the United Nations)

will speak on

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2. ENGLISH, FRENCH AND GERMAN COURSE for students who have already studied these languages.

3. SPECIAL "CLASH" GROUPS for school children. Registration: 10 p.m. to 11 p.m. (except Fridays).

IDA E. DAVIDOWITZ

TEL AVIV, Thursday. — Mr. Abo Harman, head of the Jewish Agency's Information Department, today reported to a special session of the Agency Executive, the results of his recent visit to Paris and London.

Mr. Harman returned last night from the U.S.A.

Mr. Harman, who has been in the U.S.A. for several weeks, reported that the situation in the U.S.A. is very serious, and that the Jewish Agency must take immediate action to deal with the situation.

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THE Lebanon, smallest of the Arab countries, but in many ways the most advanced, and therefore the most important.

LEBANESE dependence, has had good reason to fear for her future recently. Though only rarely showing signs of active hostility towards Israel, the Lebanon, in her position of a Christian minority, is yet scarcely in a position to take the initiative towards peace among the Moslem Arab states, though there are indications that some circles there would not be averse to playing such a role.

It is the more significant that the Lebanon should now have announced support of the Eisenhower doctrine, with parallel reports from Persia that she is also contemplating adherence to the Baghdad Pact. The position of the Lebanon is not enviable now that Syria has been firmly drawn into the Soviet orbit, and her isolation is complete. She is separated from pro-Baghdad Turkey in the north, and on the south borders only upon Israel, with whom she is required by the intricacies of Arab etiquette to maintain at least the appearance of total non-cooperation and non-recognition. Yesterday's announcement makes it plain that there are no further prospects that Egypt can expect to draw Lebanon into her own military grouping, and apart from basic reluctance, this is undoubtedly due to the growth of Soviet influence in Syria, and within what must now be considered the Egyptian bloc.

It was presumably in preparation for a final move of this kind that the Lebanon's Foreign Minister, Dr. Charles Malik, has been touring the Western capitals, offering himself as negotiator between West and East over the Suez issue. While Dr. Malik cannot be assumed to have much influence over Nasser, even Egypt's dictator must be aware of the comparatively high standing which the Lebanese Foreign Minister enjoys in Washington and, more particularly, the U.N.

He does not claim for the Lebanon the function of mediator in the technical diplomatic sense, and he seems to be engaged more in conveying to one another the personal points of view of the statesmen involved, than in manufacturing diplomatic formulae. At the present stage, even this may be significant.

Nevertheless, Dr. Malik has probably for a long time seen himself as entrusted with a mission to mediate between East and West, as a former Dean of Philosophy of the American University in Beirut, Ambassador of Lebanon to the United States, and chairman of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. He is known to believe that the cultural and religious ties between the West and Near East are much closer than is usually thought on either side. Much better informed than most other Arab statesmen, Malik sees the growth of Communism in the Near East as the most significant and dangerous development in this area, rather than the emergence of Israel. A realist to this extent, he is an exception among Arab politicians.

Dr. Malik has welcomed President Eisenhower's initiative in the Near East, particularly the offer of economic aid, and has expressed the view that if some of its ambiguities can be resolved in a way satisfactory to Arab nationalist opinion, even Nasser might in the end not refuse to be a man on the main object of his journey, the solution of the Suez dispute, Dr. Malik was noticeably less optimistic after his visits to Paris and London.

HARMAN REPORTS TO AGENCY EXECUTIVE

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